

REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 12 and 16-19 are allowed. Claims 12 is amended.
Claims 1-6 and 13-15 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Amendments to the claims

Claim 12 was amended in the Response to Examiner's Communication, filed March 5, 2003, to recite the components of the NAC medium identified in the claim which correspond to the components recited in canceled claim 7, which was amended in a Preliminary Amendment filed December 13, 2001.

As indicated on page 11, line 7 of the marked-up version of amended claim 7 in the Preliminary Amendment, Applicant's intent in amending the phrase beginning "a carbohydrate selected from the group..." was not to delete the entire phrase but rather to limit the carbohydrate to glucose. With the exception of the word glucose at the end of line 7, the remainder of the phrase was interlineated as being deleted. However, in the clean version of amended claim 7, the entire phrase was deleted unintentionally.

This error was not discovered by either the Applicant or the Patent Office when entering the amendment and, therefore, the error was continued throughout prosecution of the instant application. The error was discovered upon review of the amendments entered for the allowed claims. This error is understandable, given the interlineation of the remainder of the phrase and, indeed, the amount of interlineation within the entire amended claim 7, it would be easy to overlook “glucose” within the phrase. Thus, when claim 12 was amended to incorporate the limitations of amended claim 7, as recited in the incorrect clean version of the amended claim, the error was perpetuated unintentionally throughout examination of claims 12 and 16-19.

Applicant submits that glucose is an essential component of the NAC medium recited in allowed claim 12. The specification discloses that glucose is present in the basal medium used for the method recited in claim 12 (pg. 37, ll. 13-15; pg. 38, Table IV). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that claim 12 be amended to include glucose as a component of the NAC medium recited in the amended claim 12.

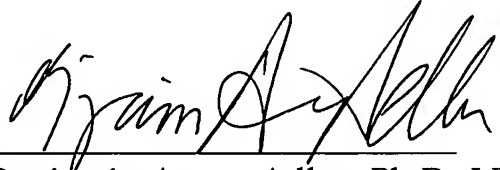
Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due

In an Office Action mailed May 7, 2003, the Examiner stated that a new title was required which clearly is indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. In the Response to Office Action, filed July 21, 2003, Applicant amended the title to *Methods of Determining Deficiencies in Intracellular Levels of Cysteine and Glutathione*. The Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due does not indicate the Title of Invention to be the amended title, but rather the title as originally filed. Absent comment to the contrary in the Notice of Allowability, Applicant assumes the amended title is acceptable.

If any issues remain, please telephone the undersigned attorney. Applicant believes that no fees are due, however, should this be in error, please debit Deposit Account No. 07-1185 on which the undersigned is allowed to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Oct 30, 2003
ADLER & ASSOCIATES
8011 Candle Lane
Houston TX 77071
(713) 270-5391
BADLER@houston.rr.com


Benjamin Aaron Adler, Ph.D, J.D.
Counsel for Applicant
Registration No. 35,423